

## **Lakewood, Washington**

### **People and Place**

#### *Location*

Lakewood, located in the Puget Sound area of Washington State, encompasses approximately 17.1 square miles of land and 1.9 square miles of water. Situated in Pierce County, approximately equidistant from Vancouver, British Columbia, and the Columbia River, the community is located a little over 42 miles from the City of Seattle. Lakewood lies at 47°10'19"N and 122°31'02"W.

#### *Demographic Profile*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census Lakewood had a population of 58,211. The gender composition was evenly distributed with slightly more females (51.1%) than males (48.9%). Between 1990 and 2000 the population of Lakewood decreased by about 1%, from 58,412 in 1990 to 58,211 in 2000. In 2000 the racial composition of Lakewood was predominantly White (64.8%), followed by Black (12.3%), Asian (8.9%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (1.8%), and American Indian and Alaska Native (1.5%). Less than five percent (3.6%) identified themselves with some other race and 7% with two or more races. Approximately 8.5% of residents identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Slightly over ten percent (12.7%) of the population was foreign-born. Of the foreign-born population about 60% were born in Asia (25.9% Korea), 23.6% in the Americas (13.6% Mexico), and 21.6% in Europe (12.3% Germany). The highest percentage of those reporting ancestry in the 2000 U.S. Census were Germans (13.5%), followed by the Irish (6.9%) and English (6.7%).

The median age in Lakewood in 2000 was 35.0, slightly less than the national median age of 35.3. Of the population age 18 years and over, 83.6% had graduated from high school or continued on to higher education, 19.1% had received a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 7.2% had received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.9%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

#### *History*

The area today known as Lakewood was once referred to as the Prairie. It was "an expanse of land about 20 miles square, dotted with small lakes and occasional stands of oak and Douglas fir trees." The Steilacoom and Nisqually Native American groups conducted pow-wows in the Prairie.<sup>1</sup> The tribal histories of the two groups are distinct, due in part to their status and relationship with the federal government. Decisions made by Euro-American settlers, particularly surrounding where to operate posts and settle, also influenced their histories. The Nisqually, a federally recognized tribe, were granted a reservation. The Steilacoom are still not recognized by the federal government and therefore have no reservation land.<sup>2</sup> The Nisqually Tribe's reservation is located primarily east of the Nisqually River.<sup>3</sup>

Historically, both tribal groups were involved heavily in fishing in the area and were granted the right to continue to "hunt and fish in their traditional tribal areas, no matter if those areas were off reservation lands" by the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.<sup>4</sup> Medicine Creek Treaty rights were not honored in full for many years. However the

Nisqually Tribe was instrumental, along with several other tribal groups, in reinstating those rights with the passing of the Boldt Decision in 1974 which allocated 50% of the annual salmon catch to treaty tribes.

In 1833 the Prairie was selected by the British Hudson Bay Company as a location for a new fur trading post. Fort Steilacoom, constructed after an Indian attack on Fort Nisqually and used to suppress Indian uprisings, was originally a Prairie farm. From 1850 to 1855 the first mills were constructed in the area. As Washington became a Territory in 1853 more Euro-American settlers began to arrive and in 1854 Steilacoom became the first incorporated town in the Territory. In 1873 nearby Tacoma was selected as the site of the western terminus of the Northwest Pacific Railway, further boosting the area's economy. Other local area advancements include the construction of the Tacoma Speedway in the early 1900s, Camp Lewis in World War I, and McChord Air Force Base in 1938.<sup>5</sup>

During the 1930s and 1940s the community of Lakewood started to gain its own identity and in 1937 the first piece of the Lakewood Colonial Shopping Center was built, one of the first suburban shopping centers in the nation. In 1942 a fire district was configured with a water district instituted a year later. In 1961 Lakewood General Hospital opened its doors. Several local amenities followed including a library and two colleges. Lakewood was incorporated in 1996 and is the eighth largest city in Washington State.<sup>6</sup>

## **Infrastructure**

### *Current Economy*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 54.8% of the potential labor force in Lakewood was employed and there was a 7.6% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Approximately 40.7% of the population age 16 years and over was not in the labor force at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, compared to the national average of 36.1%.

Less than one percent (0.5%) of employed Lakewood residents worked in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, according to the 2000 U.S. Census; however this number most likely does not reflect all those involved in fishing. The top industries for employed residents at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census were educational, health, and social services (22.8%); arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (9.2%); manufacturing (9.1%); professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (8.2%); and public administration (7.9%). In the same year, less than ten percent (7.4%) of the labor force was in the armed forces and 22.6% were employed by the local, state, or federal government.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the per capita income in Lakewood in 1999 was \$20,569 and the median household income was \$36,422. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that in 1999 the income of 15.8% of the population was below the poverty level. In the same year there were a total of 25,396 housing units in the community, of which 93.7% were occupied and 6.3% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 47.7% were owner occupied and 52.3% were renter occupied.

### *Governance*

Lakewood is managed by a Council-Manager form of government comprised of seven elected, nonpartisan part-time members. The Council elects one member to serve as the Mayor and another to serve as a full-time professional City Manager, “to oversee the administrative functions of the City and to implement Council policy.”<sup>7</sup> Lakewood levies an 8.8% sales and use tax, a property tax levy of \$1.49 per \$1000 assessed value, and a 5% lodging tax.

Several taxes directly impact commercial and recreational fishermen. Commercial fishermen operating in Washington waters are subject to the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax under the “extraction” classification (0.48%); those fishing outside of Washington waters but selling fish within Washington are subject to the tax under either the “wholesaling” or “retailing” classifications (0.48% and 0.47% respectively), unless the fish are sold in interstate or foreign commerce.<sup>8</sup> Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).<sup>9</sup>

Washington State levies a Food, Fish, and Shellfish Tax, paid by the first commercial processor of food fish or shellfish, including: Chinook, coho, and chum salmon or eggs (5.62%); sockeye and pink salmon or eggs (3.37%); oysters (0.09%); sea urchins/cucumbers (4.92%); and shellfish and other food fish or eggs (2.25%). Tuna, mackerel, and jackfish are exempt from this tax. Additionally, there is an Enhanced Food Fish Tax, which applies to the “first possession of enhanced food fish by an owner in Washington State” and is based on the “value of the enhanced food fish at the point of landing.”<sup>10</sup> The rate of the tax depends upon the species of fish or shellfish.

Vessels used for commercial fishing purposes part-time are subject to an annual Washington State Watercraft Excise Tax levied at 0.5% of the fair market value of the boat. Vessels used for commercial fishing purposes full-time are subject to personal property taxes at the base rate levied by the state. Washington also levies a 10% excise tax on fishing equipment, a three percent tax on electric motors and sonar fish finders, and import duties on tackle and pleasure boats to fund sportfish restoration programs.<sup>11</sup> Washington State levies a tax of \$0.28 per gallon on motor vehicle fuel. Since most of this tax is used to maintain terrestrial roadways, Washington boaters are entitled to a refund of about \$0.17 per gallon. The difference includes state sales tax and a penny per gallon contribution to a Coastal Protection Fund. Most diesel fuel sold at docks has already had this tax removed.<sup>12</sup>

The nearest federal fisheries enforcement office is located in Seattle and is the Northwest Enforcement Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The closest regional office for state fisheries, the Coastal Office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is located 60 miles southwest in Montesano, Washington. Meetings of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and Pacific Fisheries Management Council have been held in both Seattle and Tacoma. There is a U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit located nearby in Tacoma. Also located in Seattle are the headquarters of the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Coast Guard District and the District Office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

### *Facilities*

Lakewood is accessible by ground and is located on Interstate Five and State Route 512. The community is located approximately 31 miles from Sea-Tac International Airport, in Sea Tac, Washington.

There are a total of 25 public schools in Lakewood, including: 13 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, and 6 high schools. In addition there are two private schools in the community. Lakewood is home to two colleges, Clover Park Technical College and Pierce College at Fort Steilacoom.

The Lakewood Water District provides residents with water services and electricity is supplied by Tacoma Power, a division of Tacoma Public Utilities. Sewer services are provided by the Pierce County Sewer Utility. Public safety is administered by the Lakewood Police and Fire Departments. There are no hospitals or medical centers in Lakewood; however Western State Hospital is located 3 miles away in Tacoma. There are at least four hotels available for lodging in Lakewood and additional lodging available in nearby communities. There are no marine facilities located in Lakewood. Information on port facilities in the area can be found in the Tacoma and Gig Harbor Community Profiles.

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

There were no landings delivered to Lakewood in 2000. Additionally, there were no known processors operating in the community in the same year. A total of two vessels were owned by Lakewood residents in 2000; both vessels participated in the federal groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Lakewood residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), shellfish (NA/0/NA), and shrimp (NA/0/0).<sup>13</sup>

Recorded data indicates that the number of Lakewood residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) in 2000 was: coastal pelagic (1/0/0), groundfish (1/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (4/0/0), and shellfish (0/0/NA).<sup>14</sup>

A total of nine state permits were registered to Lakewood residents in 2000. According to recorded data the number of permits held by residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (2/0/0), groundfish (3/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (4/0/0), and shellfish (0/0/NA).<sup>15</sup>

### *Sportfishing*

In Lakewood there are two vendors licensed to sell fishing permits. In 2003 a total of 3936 sportfishing license transactions, valuing \$7095 were made in the community. In Catch Record Card Area 13 (South Puget Sound, all waters south of Tacoma Narrows Bridge) the 2000 sport salmon catch, based on catch record cards was 5131 fish, including: 1649 Chinook, 2226 coho, and 1256 chum. In the same year approximately 26,089 marine angler trips were made in the sport salmon fishery. In Area 13 a total of 8025 bottomfish were caught by boat-based anglers in 2000. The recreational harvest of clams (lbs) and oysters (#) for the same area in 2000 was estimated to be 30,147 and 65,007 respectively; harvest occurred over an estimated 7065 user trips.

### *Subsistence*

Subsistence harvest for marine species may exist in the Lakewood area. However, the extent of subsistence harvesting is difficult to quantify due to a scarcity of data.

## **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

In 2000 Lakewood residents owned four vessels that were involved in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year community members landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): herring (confidential/confidential/3) and salmon (confidential/confidential/3).

Fifteen Lakewood residents held crewmember licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year, two residents held federal commercial fishing permits and five residents held state permits.

A total of eight permits were held by Lakewood residents in 2000. In the same year residents also held 6990 sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) shares. In 2000 one scallop License Limitation Program (LLP) permit was held by a Lakewood community member. Lakewood residents held two herring and five salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits in 2000.

### *Sportfishing*

In 2000 a total of 149 Alaskan sportfishing licenses were purchased by Lakewood.

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<sup>1</sup> Dumond, Val. No Date. History of Lakewood, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ci.lakewood.wa.us/about.html> (access date - December 2004).

<sup>2</sup> Steilacoom Tribe. 2003. Steilacoom Tribe of Indians, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://members.shaw.ca/nyjack/steilacoom/the\\_tribe\\_today.htm](http://members.shaw.ca/nyjack/steilacoom/the_tribe_today.htm) (access date - December 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. 2003. Nisqually Tribe, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.npaihb.org/profiles/tribal\\_profiles/Washington/Nisqually%20Tribal%20Profile.htm](http://www.npaihb.org/profiles/tribal_profiles/Washington/Nisqually%20Tribal%20Profile.htm) (access date - December 2004).

<sup>4</sup> U-S-history.com. No Date. Native Americans, Nisqually Indian Tribe Washington, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1561.html> (access date - December 2004).

<sup>5</sup> Dumond, Val. No Date. History of Lakewood, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ci.lakewood.wa.us/about.html> (access date - December 2004).

<sup>6</sup> Dumond, Val. No Date. History of Lakewood, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ci.lakewood.wa.us/about.html> (access date - December 2004).

<sup>7</sup> City of Lakewood. 2004. Lakewood City Council, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ci.lakewood.wa.us/City%20Council/council.html> (access date - December 2004).

<sup>8</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue. 2004. Commercial fishing, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/Industry/Fish/default.aspx> (access date - July 2004).

<sup>9</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue. 2002. Information on Washington's Tax Structure: Fish Taxes, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/industry/fish/default.aspx> (access date - July 2004).

<sup>10</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue. 2001. Commercial Fishing, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/Industry/Fish/default.aspx#enhanced> (access date - July 2004).

<sup>11</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures. 2004. Environment, Energy, and Transportation Program: Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/esnr/FISHHUNTWILD.htm> (access date - July 2004).

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<sup>12</sup> Washington State Department of Licensing. 2003. Fuel Tax Frequently Asked Questions, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vs/ft-faq.htm> (access date - July 2004).

<sup>13</sup> “NA” refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of the fishery in 2000.

<sup>14</sup> “NA” refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of the fishery in 2000.

<sup>15</sup> “NA” refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of the fishery in 2000.